ALL NEW
E-MAN
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CITY IN THE SAND!
STATON
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FROM THE YEAR 3100 B.C. TO 642 A.D., THERE EXISTED A CULTURE ALONG THE NILE RIVER THAT HAS OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE "INFANT OF CIVILIZATION." THIS WAS ANCIENT EGYPT... BUT WHERE DID THE EGYPTIANS LEARN THE ARTS, CRAFTS, AND SCIENCES WHICH INFLUENCE EVEN TODAY'S CIVILIZATIONS? DID THEY, AS THE HISTORIANS TELL US, DEVELOP THESE THEMSELVES... OR WAS THEIR KNOWLEDGE A GIFT FROM THE STARS?
CITY IN THE SAND
EDITOR- GEORGE WILDMAN
SCRIPT- NICOLA CUTI
ART- JOE STATON
THE CAMEL CLUB IN EGYPT...
E-MAN
IT IS RARE TO SEE A NON-EGYPTIAN PERFORM OUR "TAXIM" SO WELL.
WHAT FORM! WHAT RHYTHM!
DA-DA DA-DA
HOO-RAY NOVA KANE!
DAH-DUM!!
NOVA...
THE DANCE IS WELL-RECEIVED, BUT AFTER SIX ENCORES, NOVA RETIRES DESPITE THE ENCOURAGING APPLAUSE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE, MISS KANE. BY THE WAY... THERE IS A MAN WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE.
OH YES, I'M EXPECTING HIM.
D-5649
E-MAN

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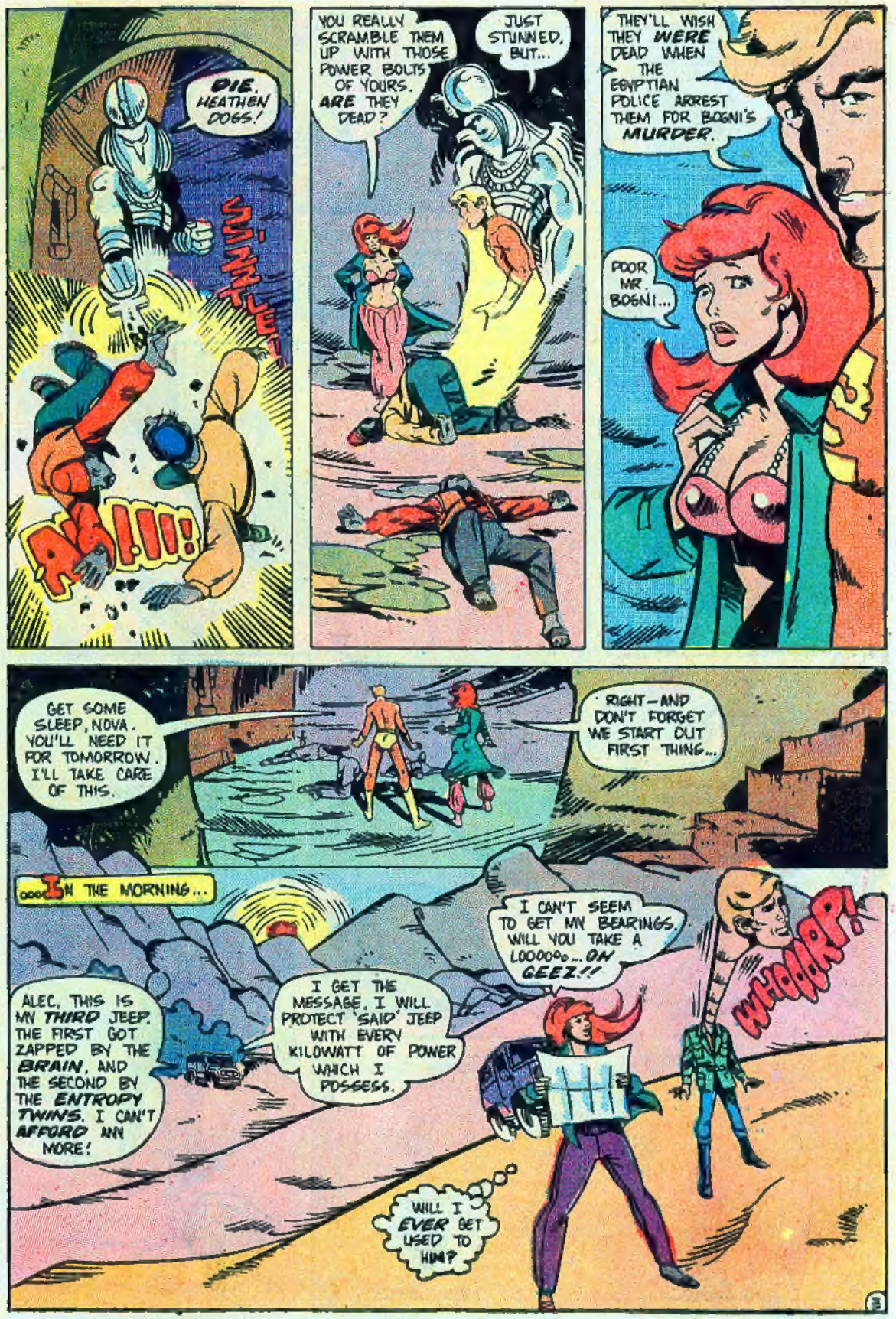
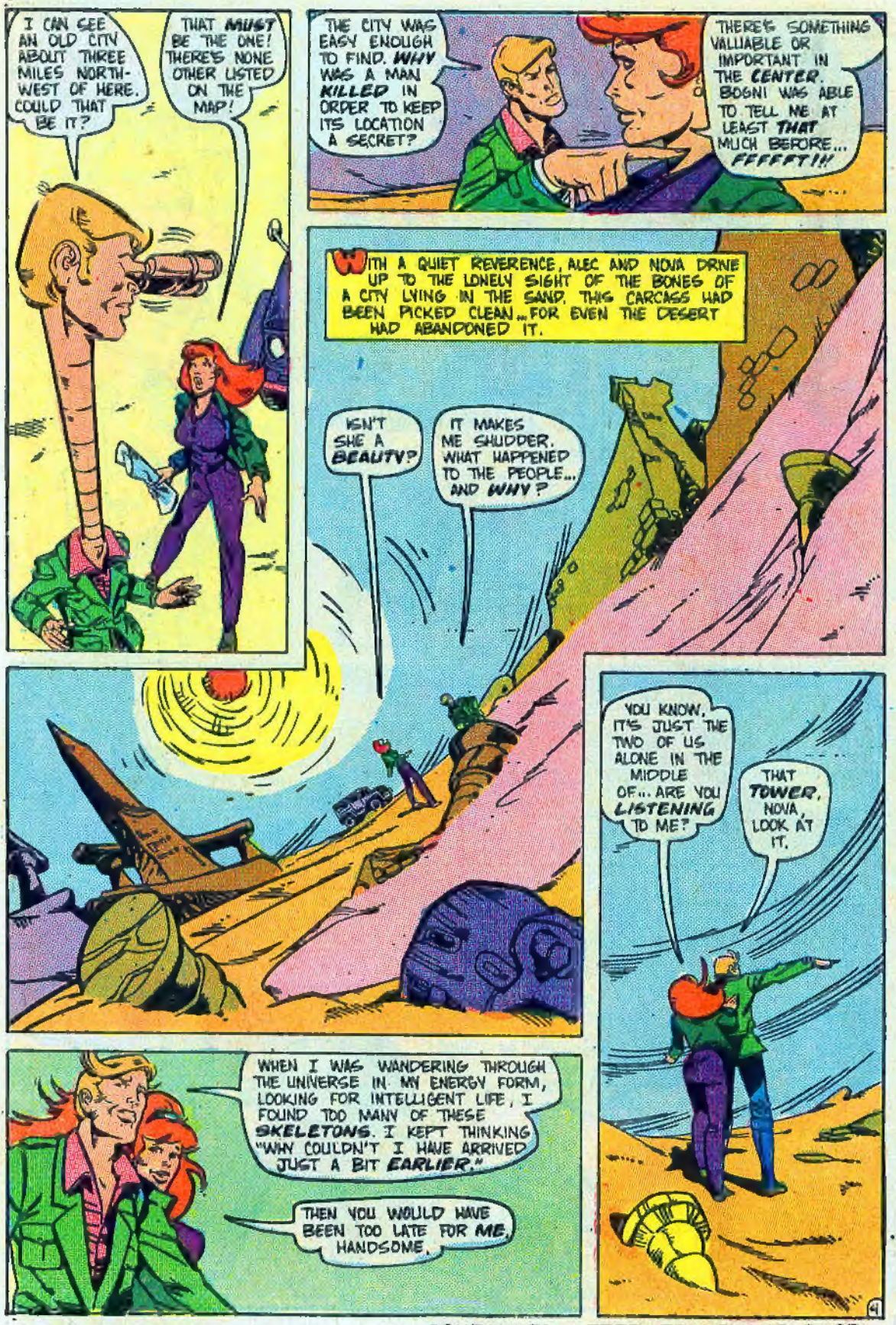
EGYPTIAN DAYS ARE HOT AND BUSTLING, BUT THE NIGHTS ARE COOL AND DANGEROUS...
MISS KANE, I'M OVER HERE.
MR. BOGNI, I... OMILORD!
IT IS I, KASH BOGNI, NOT KING TUT'S MUMMY. THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH YOU TO HAVE THE MAP TO THE LOST CITY... AND THEY DID THIS TO ME.
BUT WHY? BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MY EXPEDITION.
IT IS NOT JUST THE CITY, BUT WHAT LIES IN THE CENTER OF...
GAAAAAAAAA
MR. BOGNI!!!
DO NOT RUN, WOMAN, OR WE WILL KILL YOU!
GIVE US THE MAP.
E-MAN !!!
YIIII!!
WHO DARES TO MOLEST A PROTECTORATE OF THE GREAT GOD RA??
KERBOOMM!!


DIE, HEATHEN DOGS!
SNNRTLE!
AH!!!!
YOU REALLY SCRAMBLE THEM UP WITH THOSE POWER BOLTS OF YOURS. ARE THEY DEAD?
JUST STUNNED, BUT...
THEY'LL WISH THEY WERE DEAD WHEN THE EGYPTIAN POLICE ARREST THEM FOR BOGNI'S MURDER.
POOR MR. BOGNI...
GET SOME SLEEP, NOVA. YOU'LL NEED IT FOR TOMORROW. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
RIGHT—AND DON'T FORGET WE START OUT FIRST THING...
IN THE MORNING...
ALEC, THIS IS MY THIRD JEEP. THE FIRST GOT ZAPPED BY THE BRAIN, AND THE SECOND BY THE ENTROPY TWINS. I CAN'T AFFORD MY MORE!
I GET THE MESSAGE. I WILL PROTECT 'SAID' JEEP WITH EVERY KILOWATT OF POWER WHICH I POSSESS.
I CAN'T SEEM TO GET MY BEARINGS. WILL YOU TAKE A LOOOOK...OH GEEZ!!
WHOOARP!
WILL I EVER GET USED TO HIM?


I CAN SEE AN OLD CITY ABOUT THREE MILES NORTH-WEST OF HERE. COULD THAT BE IT?
THAT MUST BE THE ONE! THERE'S NONE OTHER LISTED ON THE MAP!
THE CITY WAS EASY ENOUGH TO FIND. WHY WAS A MAN KILLED IN ORDER TO KEEP ITS LOCATION A SECRET?
THERE'S SOMETHING VALUABLE OR IMPORTANT IN THE CENTER. BOGNI WAS ABLE TO TELL ME AT LEAST THAT MUCH BEFORE... FFFFFT!!!
WITH A QUIET REVERENCE, ALEC AND NOVA DRIVE UP TO THE LONELY SIGHT OF THE BONES OF A CITY LYING IN THE SAND. THIS CARCASS HAD BEEN PICKED CLEAN... FOR EVEN THE DESERT HAD ABANDONED IT.
ISN'T SHE A BEAUTY?
IT MAKES ME SHUDDER. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE... AND WHY?
YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF... ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
THAT TOWER, NOVA, LOOK AT IT.
WHEN I WAS WANDERING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE IN MY ENERGY FORM, LOOKING FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE, I FOUND TOO MANY OF THESE SKELETONS. I KEPT THINKING "WHY COULDN'T I HAVE ARRIVED JUST A BIT EARLIER."
THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE FOR ME, HANDSOME.
4

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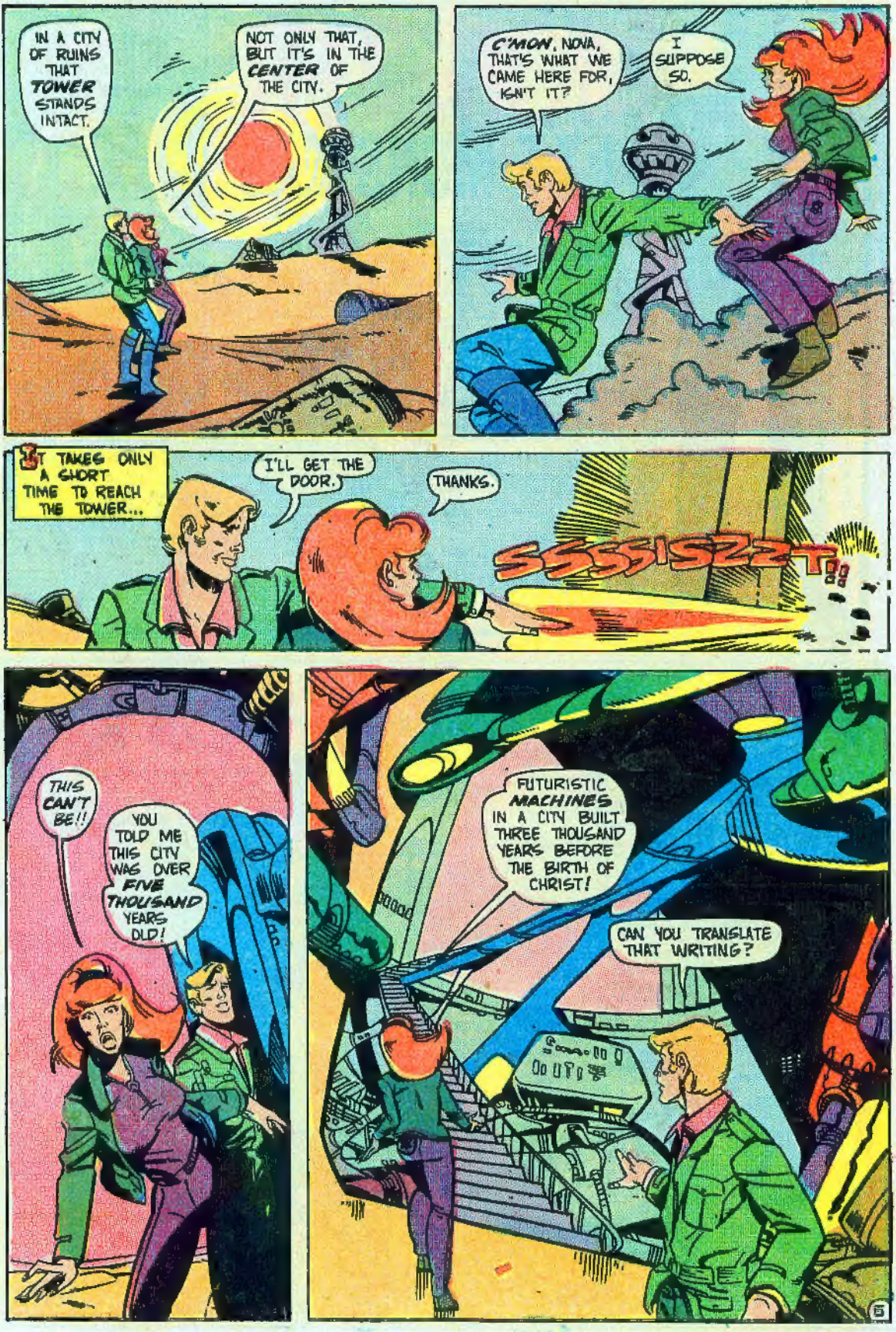
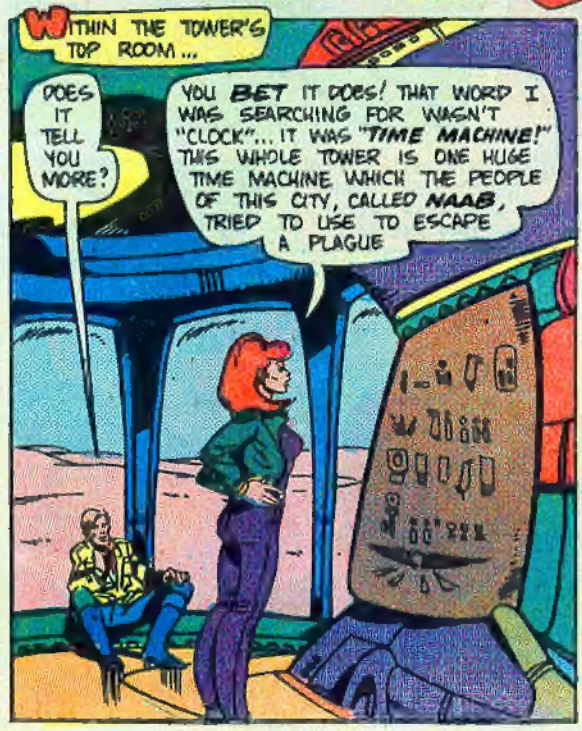
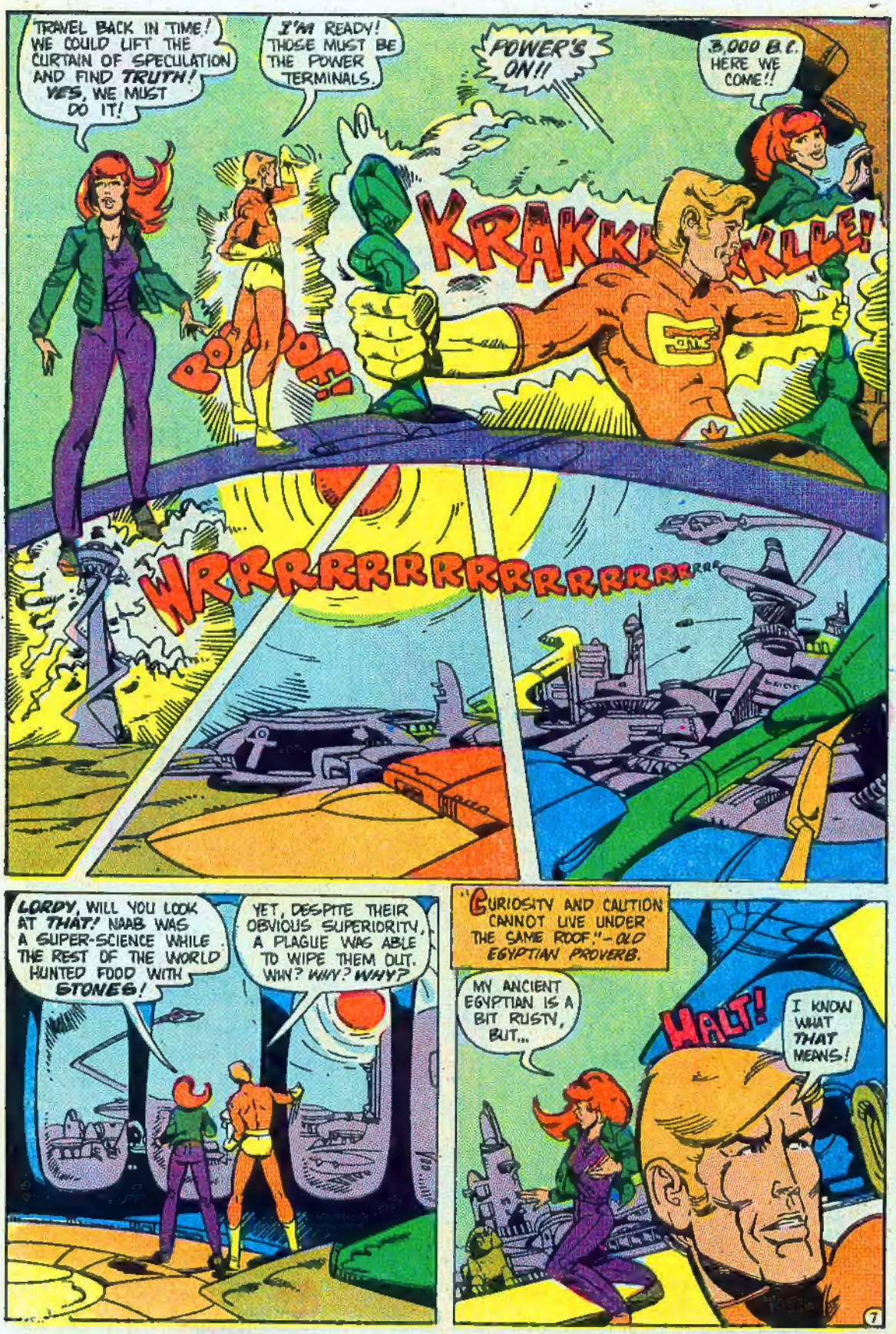

IN A CITY OF RUINS THAT TOWER STANDS INTACT.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT IT'S IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY.
C'MON, NOVA, THAT'S WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR, ISN'T IT?
I SUPPOSE SO.
IT TAKES ONLY A SHORT TIME TO REACH THE TOWER...
I'LL GET THE DOOR.
THANKS.
SSSSISZZT!!
THIS CAN'T BE!!
YOU TOLD ME THIS CITY WAS OVER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!
FUTURISTIC MACHINES IN A CITY BUILT THREE THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!
CAN YOU TRANSLATE THAT WRITING?
5

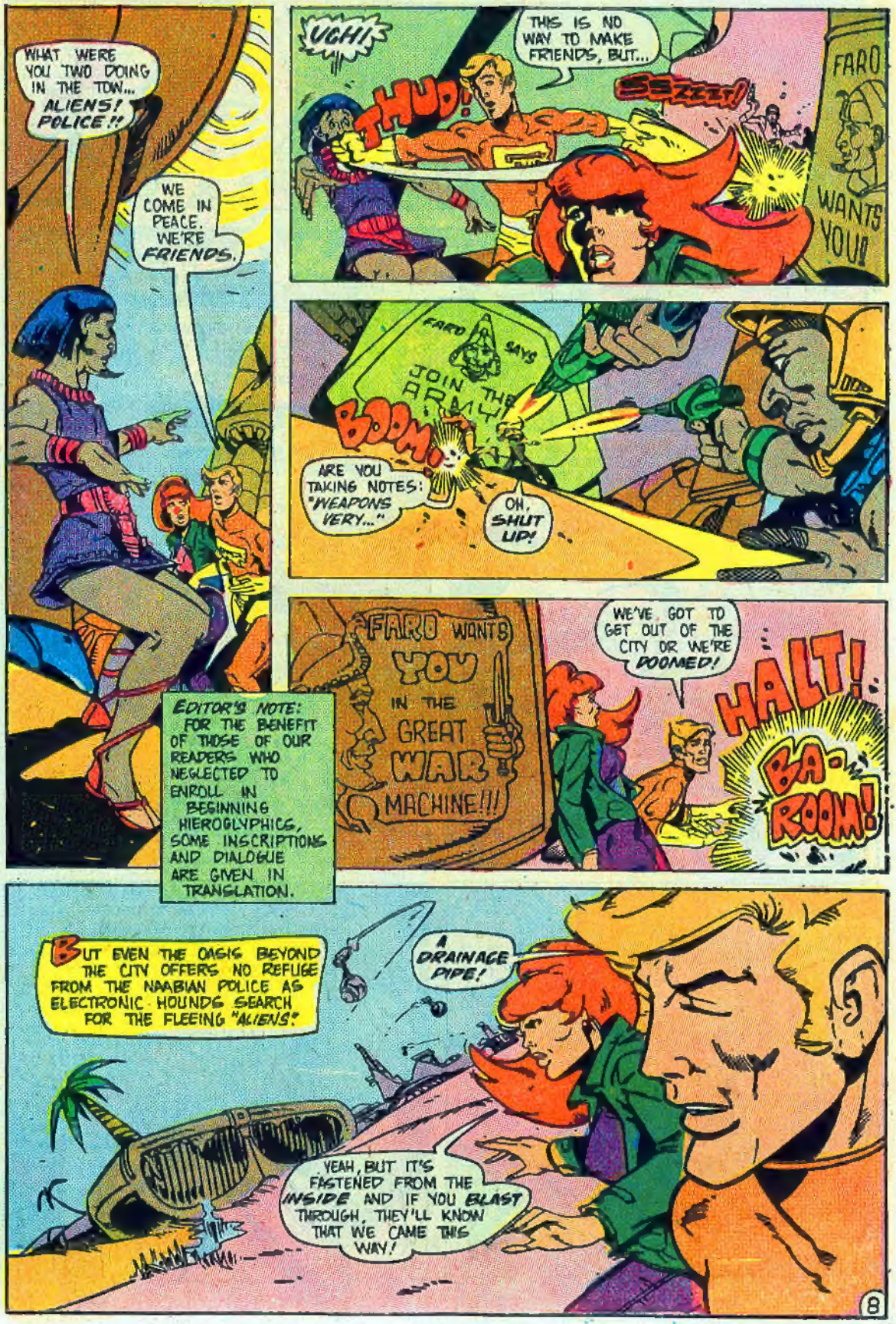
YES, IT'S ANCIENT EGYPTIAN. IT TELLS OF A PLAGUE AND... SOMETHING ABOUT... A CLOCK... THERE'S MORE AT THE... TOP-OF-THE-TOWER.
THE TOP. HUH? ALRIGHT, BUT WATCH THESE STAIRS. SOME OF THESE BOLTS ARE SOLID RUST.

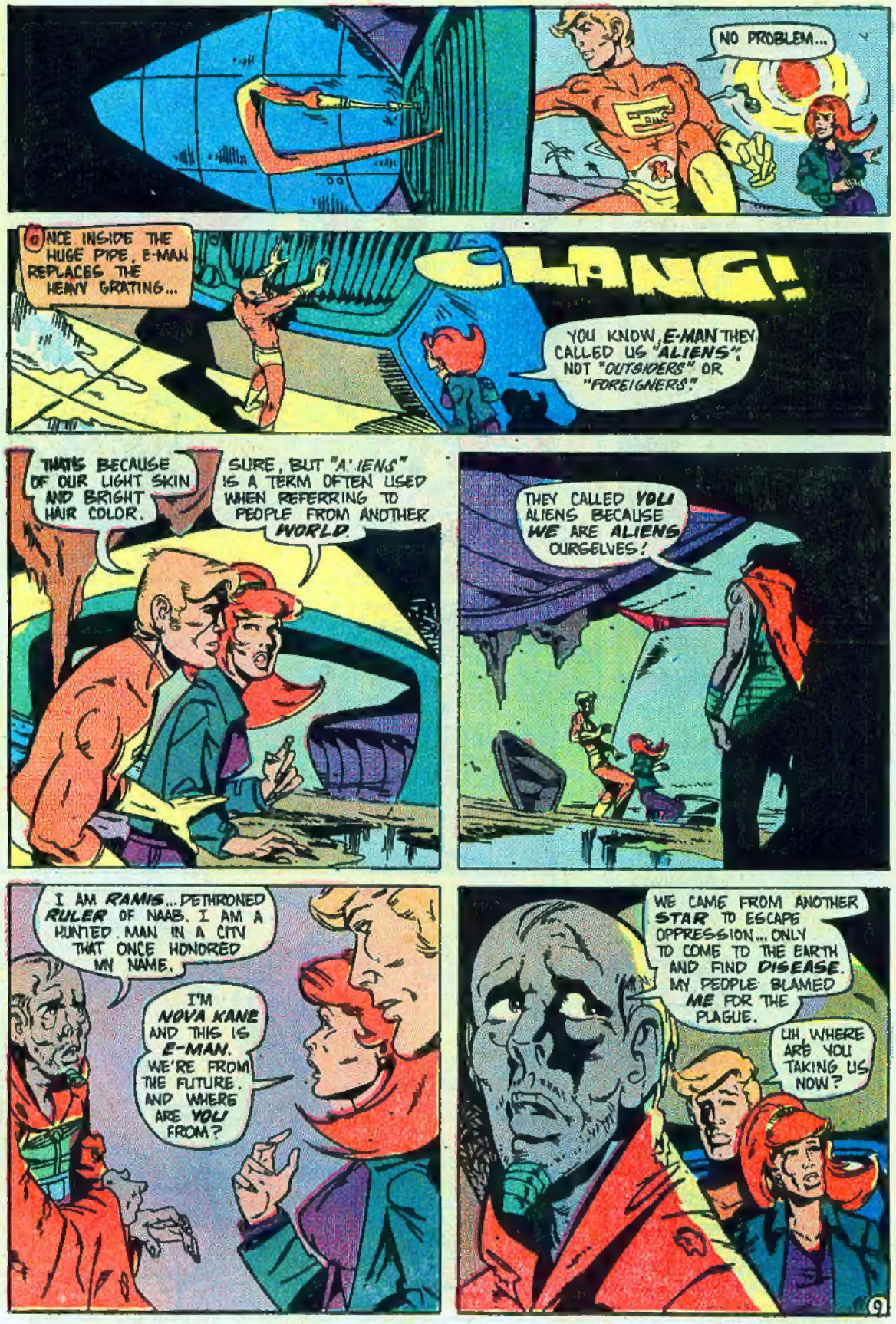
INSTINCTIVELY, E-MAN TRANSFORMS HIS MATERIAL STATE FROM THE FLESH OF ALEC TRONN TO THE HARD MATTER OF THE METALLIC STAIRCASE.

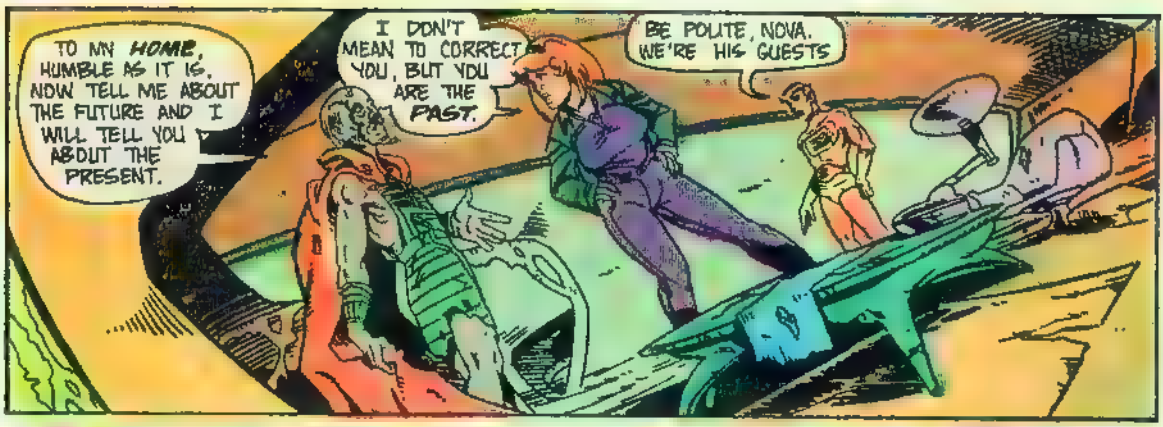

WITHIN THE TOWER'S TOP ROOM...
DOES IT TELL YOU MORE?
YOU BET IT DOES! THAT WORD I WAS SEARCHING FOR WASN'T "CLOCK"... IT WAS "TIME MACHINE!" THIS WHOLE TOWER IS ONE HUGE TIME MACHINE WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY, CALLED NAAB, TRIED TO USE TO ESCAPE A PLAGUE

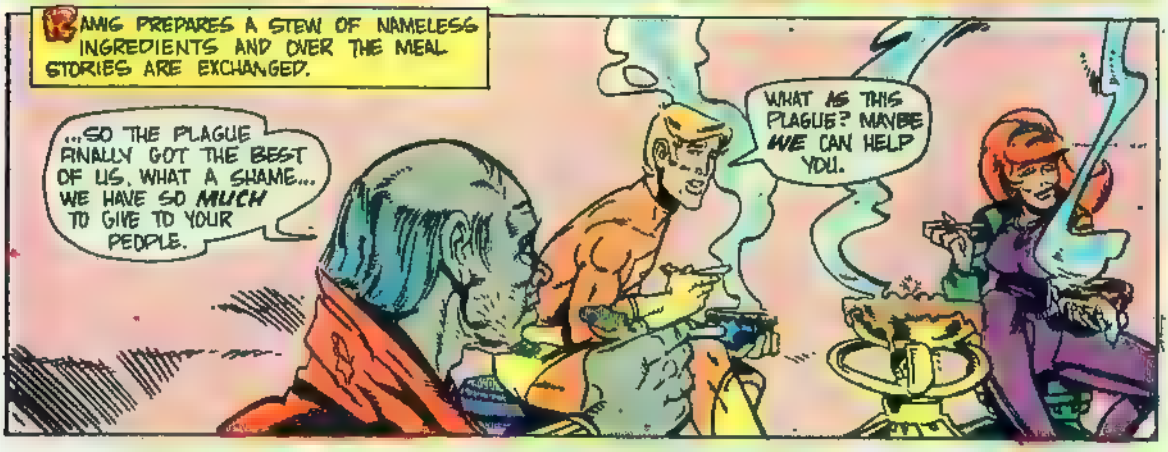
THE TRAGEDY WAS THAT THEY COULDN'T GATHER THE POWER NECESSARY TO RUN THE MACHINE AND ALL THEIR TECHNOLOGY WENT TO DUST.
POWER! POWER IS MY LIFE'S BLOOD! WHY DON'T I RUN THE MACHINE?!

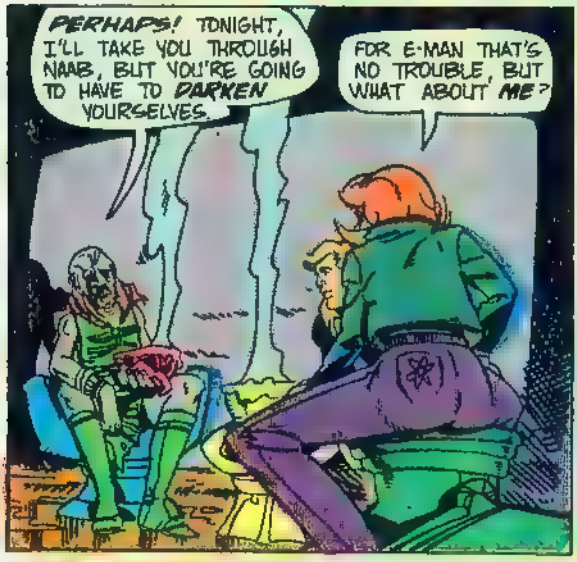

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME! WE COULD LIFT THE CURTAIN OF SPECULATION AND FIND TRUTH! YES, WE MUST DO IT!
I'M READY! THOSE MUST BE THE POWER TERMINALS.
POWER'S ON!!
3,000 B.C. HERE WE COME!!
KRAKK
KLEE!
BOOM
WRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
LORDY, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT! NAAB WAS A SUPER-SCIENCE WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD HUNTED FOOD WITH STONES!
YET, DESPITE THEIR OBVIOUS SUPERIORITY, A PLAGUE WAS ABLE TO WIPE THEM OUT. WHY? WHY? WHY?
"CURIOSITY AND CAUTION CANNOT LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF."—OLD EGYPTIAN PROVERB.
MY ANCIENT EGYPTIAN IS A BIT RUSTY, BUT...
HALT!
I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
7

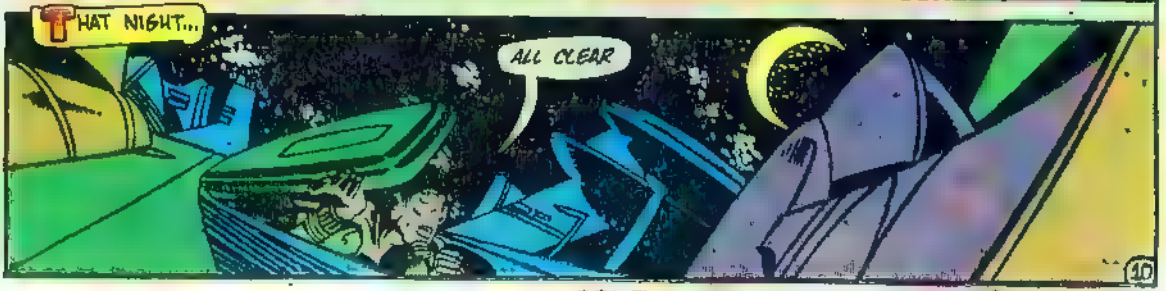

WHAT WERE YOU TWO DOING IN THE TOWN... ALIENS! POLICE!!
WE COME IN PEACE. WE'RE FRIENDS.
EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE OF OUR READERS WHO NEGLECTED TO ENROLL IN BEGINNING HIEROGLYPHICS, SOME INSCRIPTIONS AND DIALOGUE ARE GIVEN IN TRANSLATION.
UGH!
THIS IS NO WAY TO MAKE FRIENDS, BUT...
THUD!
SSZZZT!
FARO WANTS YOU!
FARO SAYS JOIN THE ARMY
BOOM!
ARE YOU TAKING NOTES: "WEAPONS VERY..."
OH, SHUT UP!
FARO WANTS YOU IN THE GREAT WAR MACHINE!!!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE CITY OR WE'RE DOOMED!
HALT!
BA-ROOM!
BUT EVEN THE OASIS BEYOND THE CITY OFFERS NO REFUGE FROM THE NAABIAN POLICE AS ELECTRONIC HOUNDS SEARCH FOR THE FLEEING "ALIENS"
A DRAINAGE PIPE!
YEAH, BUT IT'S FASTENED FROM THE INSIDE AND IF YOU BLAST THROUGH, THEY'LL KNOW THAT WE CAME THIS WAY!
8


NO PROBLEM...
ONCE INSIDE THE HUGE PIPE, E-MAN REPLACES THE HEAVY GRATING...
CLANG!
YOU KNOW, E-MAN THEY CALLED US "ALIENS", NOT "OUTSIDERS" OR "FOREIGNERS."
THAT'S BECAUSE OF OUR LIGHT SKIN AND BRIGHT HAIR COLOR.
SURE, BUT "ALIENS" IS A TERM OFTEN USED WHEN REFERRING TO PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER WORLD.
THEY CALLED YOU ALIENS BECAUSE WE ARE ALIENS OURSELVES!
I AM RAMIS... DETHRONED RULER OF NAAB. I AM A HUNTED MAN IN A CITY THAT ONCE HONORED MY NAME.
I'M NOVA KANE AND THIS IS E-MAN. WE'RE FROM THE FUTURE. AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
WE CAME FROM ANOTHER STAR TO ESCAPE OPPRESSION... ONLY TO COME TO THE EARTH AND FIND DISEASE. MY PEOPLE BLAMED ME FOR THE PLAGUE.
UH, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US NOW?
9


TO MY HOME, HUMBLE AS IT IS, NOW TELL ME ABOUT THE FUTURE AND I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT THE PRESENT.
I DON'T MEAN TO CORRECT YOU, BUT YOU ARE THE PAST.
BE POLITE, NOVA. WE'RE HIS GUESTS


AMIG PREPARES A STEW OF NAMELESS INGREDIENTS AND OVER THE MEAL STORIES ARE EXCHANGED.
...SO THE PLAGUE FINALLY GOT THE BEST OF US. WHAT A SHAME... WE HAVE SO MUCH TO GIVE TO YOUR PEOPLE.
WHAT AS THIS PLAGUE? MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU.


PERHAPS! TONIGHT, I'LL TAKE YOU THROUGH NAAB, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DARKEN YOURSELVES.
FOR E-MAN THAT'S NO TROUBLE, BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?



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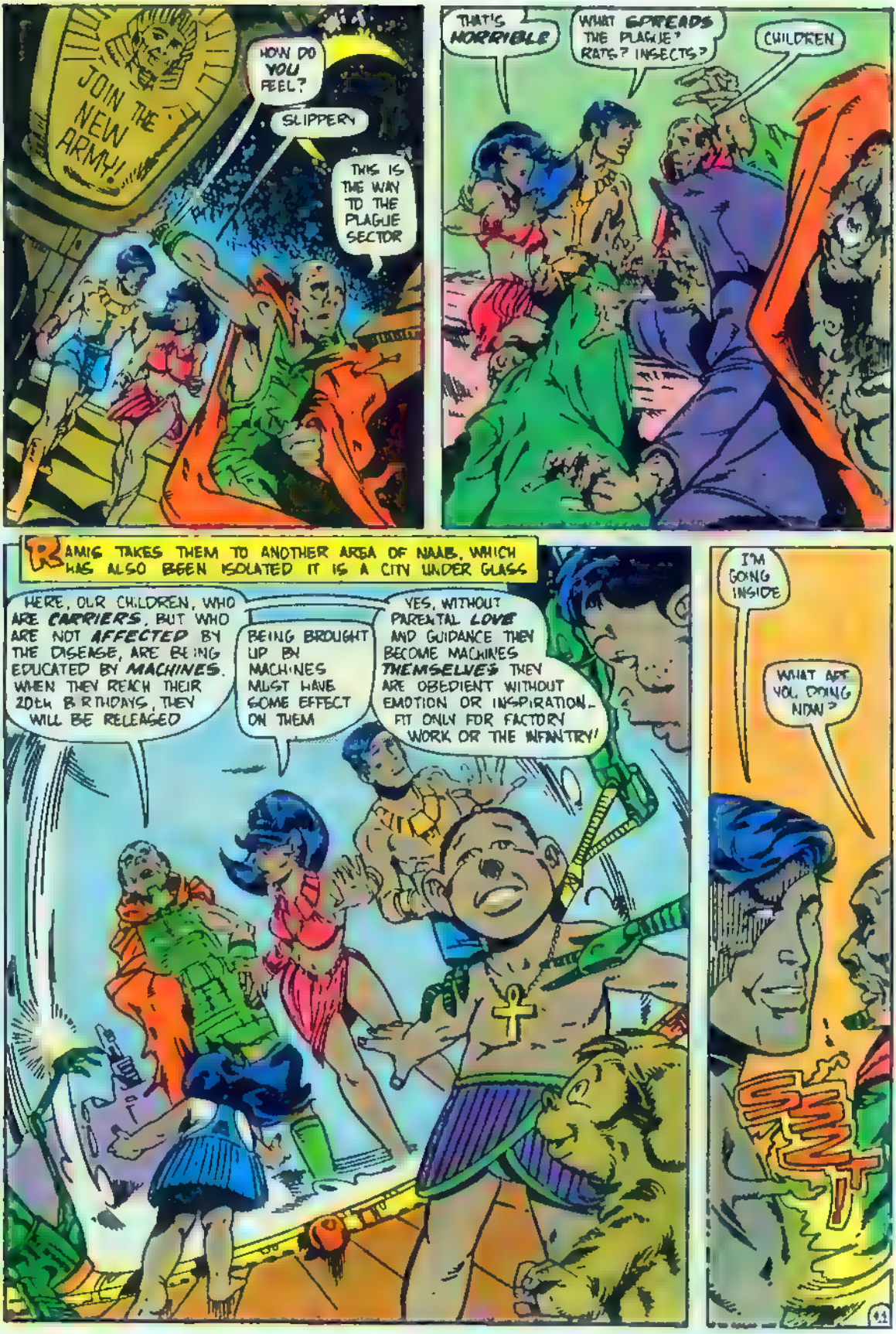
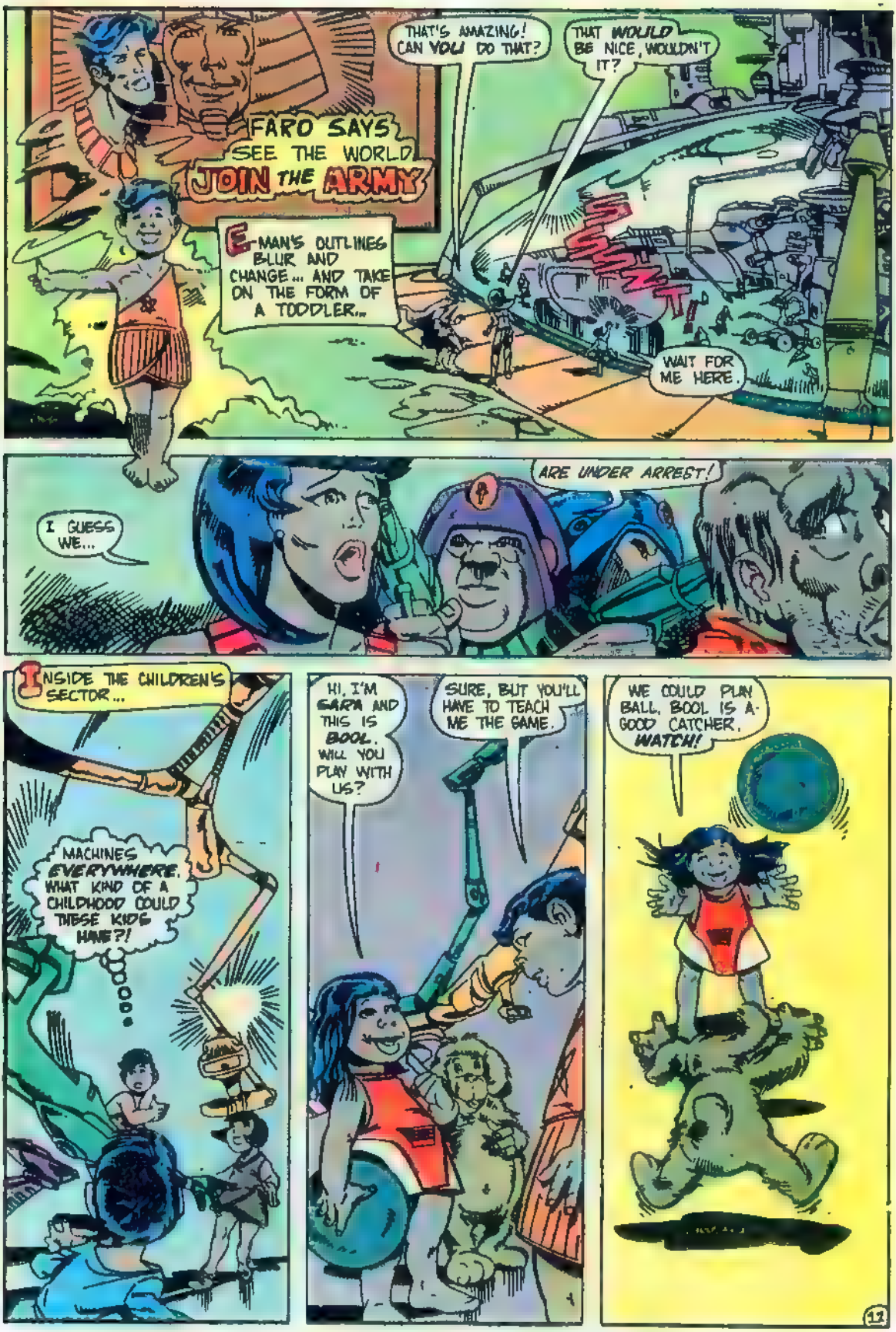
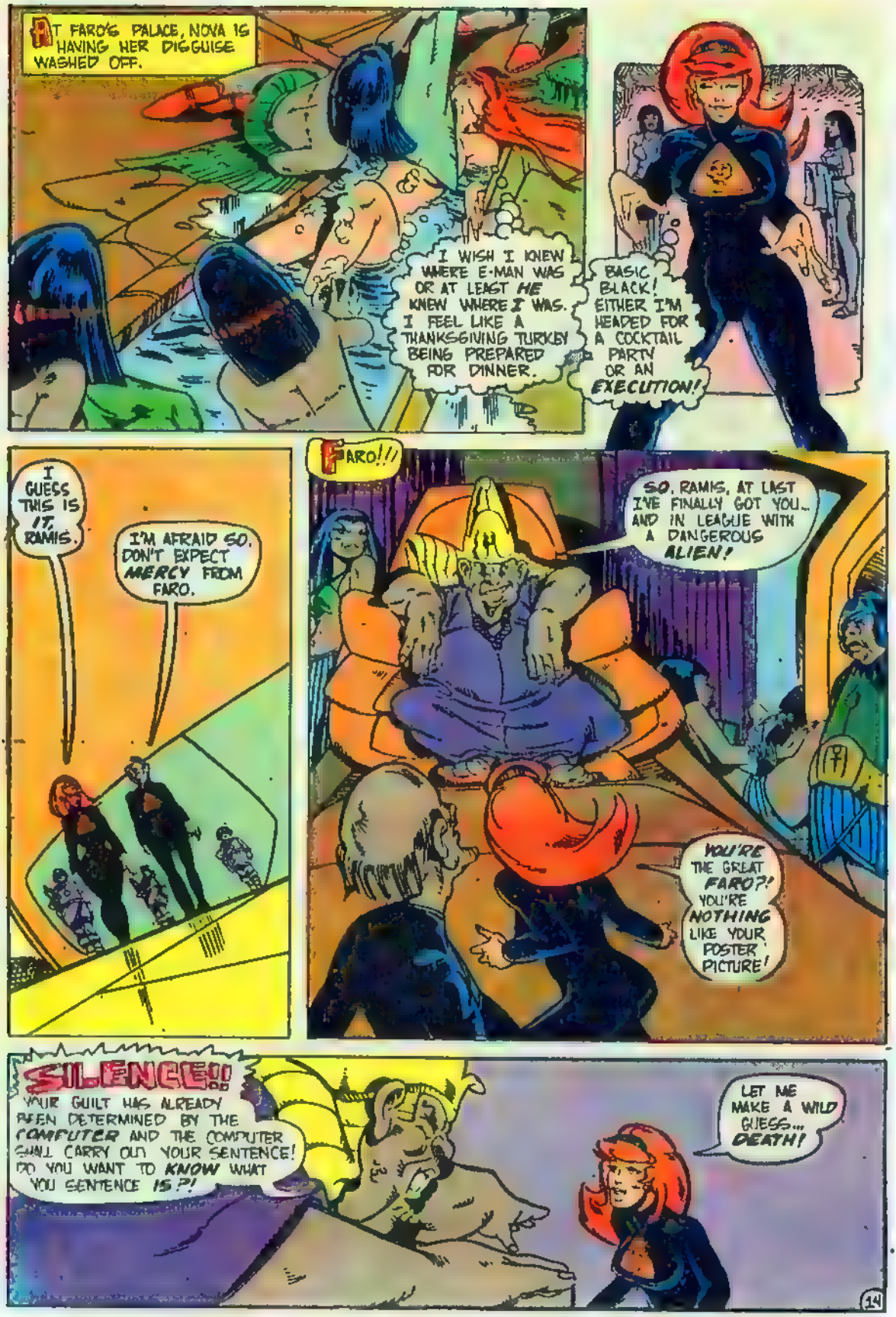

JOIN THE NEW ARMY!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
SLIPPERY
THIS IS THE WAY TO THE PLAGUE SECTOR
THAT'S HORRIBLE
WHAT SPREADS THE PLAGUE? RATS? INSECTS?
CHILDREN
RAMIG TAKES THEM TO ANOTHER AREA OF NAAB, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN ISOLATED IT IS A CITY UNDER GLASS
HERE, OUR CHILDREN, WHO ARE CARRIERS, BUT WHO ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE, ARE BEING EDUCATED BY MACHINES. WHEN THEY REACH THEIR 20th BIRTHDAYS, THEY WILL BE RELEASED
BEING BROUGHT UP BY MACHINES MUST HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THEM
YES, WITHOUT PARENTAL LOVE AND GUIDANCE THEY BECOME MACHINES THEMSELVES THEY ARE OBEDIENT WITHOUT EMOTION OR INSPIRATION - FIT ONLY FOR FACTORY WORK OR THE INFANTRY!
I'M GOING INSIDE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
SSZT

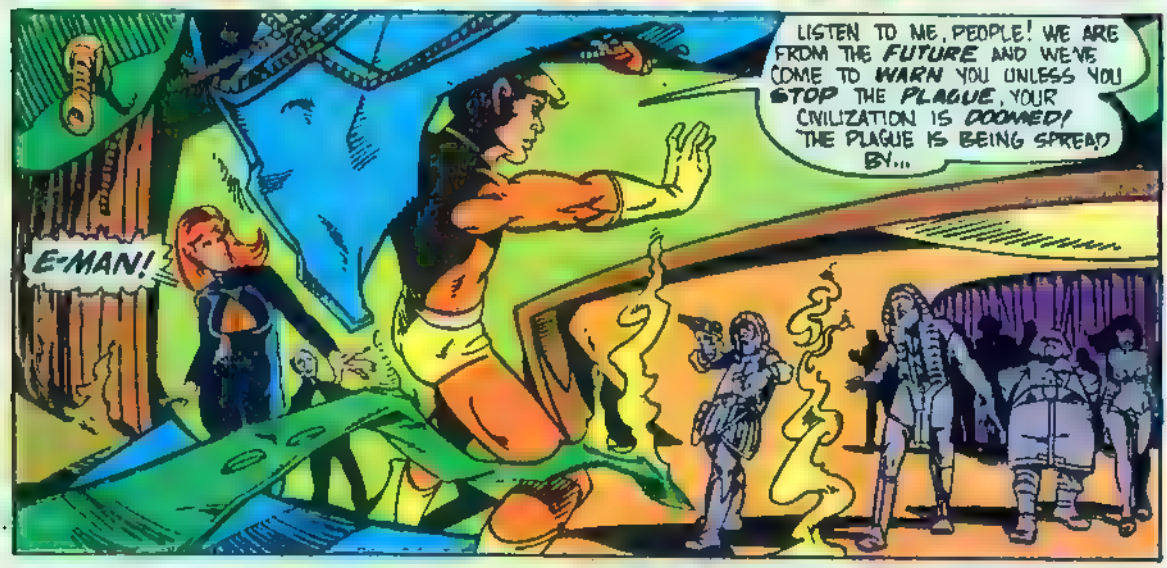

FARO SAYS
SEE THE WORLD
JOIN THE ARMY
E-MAN'S OUTLINES BLUR AND CHANGE... AND TAKE ON THE FORM OF A TODDLER...
THAT'S AMAZING! CAN YOU DO THAT?
THAT WOULD BE NICE, WOULDN'T IT?
SSSZZT!
WAIT FOR ME HERE.
I GUESS WE...
ARE UNDER ARREST!
INSIDE THE CHILDREN'S SECTOR...
MACHINES EVERYWHERE. WHAT KIND OF A CHILDHOOD COULD THESE KIDS HAVE?!
HI. I'M SARA AND THIS IS BOOL. WILL YOU PLAY WITH US?
SURE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TEACH ME THE GAME.
WE COULD PLAY BALL. BOOL IS A GOOD CATCHER. WATCH!

SEE, HE IS A GOOD CATCHER, BUT A TERRIBLE THROWER. YOU'LL HAVE TO GET THE BALL FROM HIM!
OKAY.
C'MON...GIMME THE BALL!
HMMM. WHAT'S THIS?
FLEAS? NOVA TOLD ME ONCE THAT FLEAS ON RATS CARRIED THE BLACK PLAGUE ALL OVER EUROPE!
GEE, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?!
EUREKA! I'VE FOUND IT!!
MY GOSH, ARE YOU A GENII? WILL YOU GRANT ME A WISH?
SHLIPP!
IF I CAN, SARA. WHAT'S YOUR WISH?
I WISH I COULD SEE MY MOMMY AND DADDY AGAIN
THAT'S ONE WISH I WILL GRANT.
THANK YOU, GENII!!!
SMACK!
13

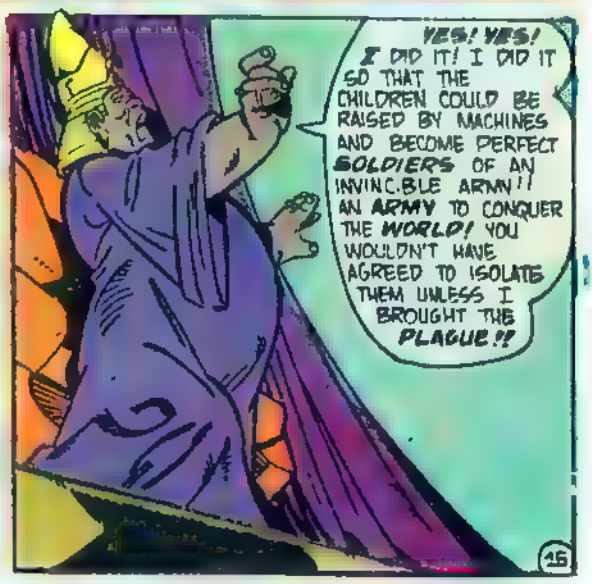

AT FARO'S PALACE, NOVA IS HAVING HER DISGUISE WASHED OFF.
I WISH I KNEW WHERE E-MAN WAS OR AT LEAST HE KNEW WHERE I WAS. I FEEL LIKE A THANKSGIVING TURKEY BEING PREPARED FOR DINNER.
BASIC BLACK! EITHER I'M HEADED FOR A COCKTAIL PARTY OR AN EXECUTION!
I GUESS THIS IS IT, RAMIS.
I'M AFRAID SO. DON'T EXPECT MERCY FROM FARO.
FARO!!!
SO, RAMIS, AT LAST I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU.. AND IN LEAGUE WITH A DANGEROUS ALIEN!
YOU'RE THE GREAT FARO?! YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE YOUR POSTER PICTURE!
SILENCE!!
YOUR GUILT HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED BY THE COMPUTER AND THE COMPUTER SHALL CARRY OUT YOUR SENTENCE! DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU SENTENCE IS?!
LET ME MAKE A WILD GUESS... DEATH!
14

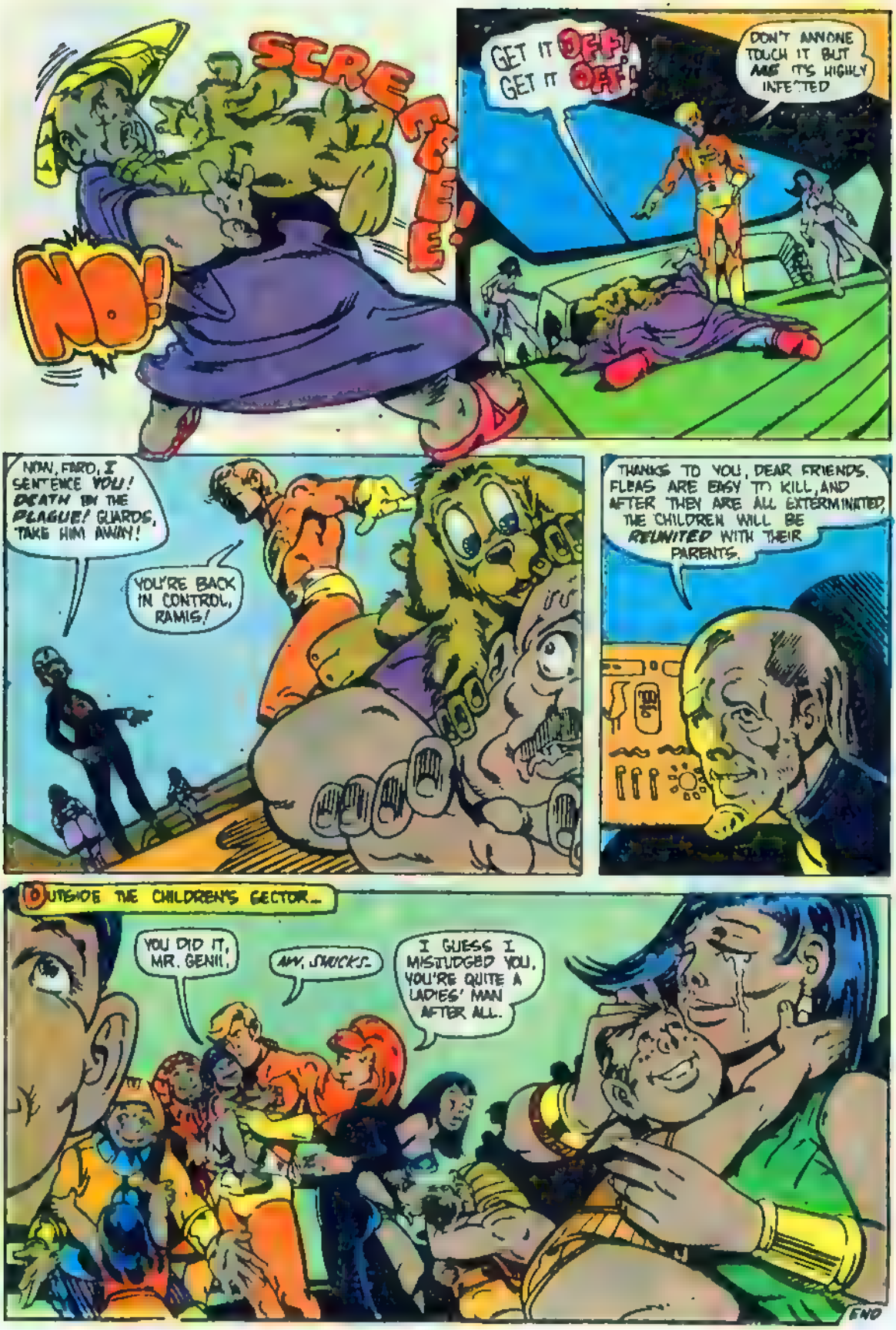
AS YOU HAVE SPOKEN!!. TAKE THEM TO THE COMPUTER!!

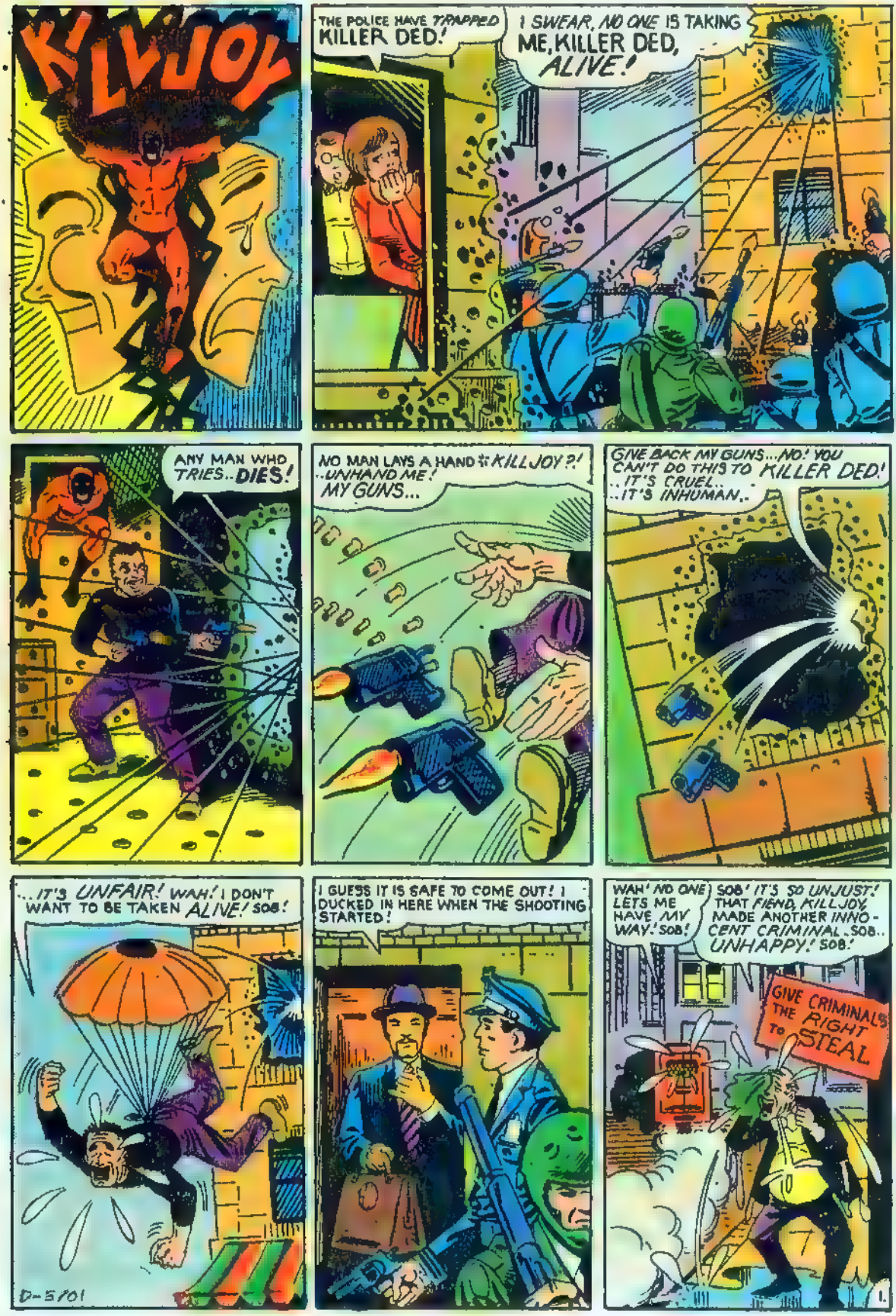
SSSIZZTTT!
BA-VROOM


LISTEN TO ME, PEOPLE! WE ARE FROM THE FUTURE AND WE'VE COME TO WARN YOU UNLESS YOU STOP THE PLAGUE, YOUR CIVILIZATION IS DOOMED! THE PLAGUE IS BEING SPREAD BY...
E-MAN!

THESE! THE FLEAS ON YOUR CHILDREN'S PETS!
SQUEEF!
FARO IS THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON YOUR CHILDREN HAVING THEM! YOU ALL KNOW THAT!!


YES! YES! I DID IT! I DID IT SO THAT THE CHILDREN COULD BE RAISED BY MACHINES AND BECOME PERFECT SOLDIERS OF AN INVINCIBLE ARMY!! AN ARMY TO CONQUER THE WORLD! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO ISOLATE THEM UNLESS I BROUGHT THE PLAGUE!!


SCREEEE!
NO!
GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!
DON'T ANYONE TOUCH IT BUT ME! IT'S HIGHLY INFECTED
NOW, FARO, I SENTENCE YOU! DEATH BY THE PLAGUE! GUARDS, TAKE HIM AWAY!
YOU'RE BACK IN CONTROL, RAMIS!
THANKS TO YOU, DEAR FRIENDS. FLEAS ARE EASY TO KILL, AND AFTER THEY ARE ALL EXTERMINATED, THE CHILDREN WILL BE REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS.
OUTSIDE THE CHILDREN'S SECTOR...
YOU DID IT, MR. GENII.
AW, SHUCKS.
I GUESS I MISJUDGED YOU. YOU'RE QUITE A LADIES' MAN AFTER ALL.
END


KILLJOY
THE POLICE HAVE TRAPPED KILLER DED!
I SWEAR, NO ONE IS TAKING ME, KILLER DED, ALIVE!
ANY MAN WHO TRIES..DIES!
NO MAN LAYS A HAND ☆ KILLJOY?! ..UNHAND ME! MY GUNS...
GIVE BACK MY GUNS...NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO KILLER DED! ..IT'S CRUEL.. ..IT'S INHUMAN..
...IT'S UNFAIR! WAH! I DON'T WANT TO BE TAKEN ALIVE! SOB!
D-5701
I GUESS IT IS SAFE TO COME OUT! I DUCKED IN HERE WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED!
WAH! NO ONE LETS ME HAVE MY WAY! SOB!
SOB! IT'S SO UNJUST! THAT FIEND, KILLJOY, MADE ANOTHER INNOCENT CRIMINAL..SOB.. UNHAPPY! SOB!
GIVE CRIMINALS THE RIGHT TO STEAL

HOLD IT! I'M A $ AMVE NOT.. YOU ARE A $ HAVE! I HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE $, SO HAND OVER MY $, YOU CROOK!
!?
WAIT! I'M DEPRIVED! HIS $ BELONG TO ME!
I'M EXPLOITED.. HIS $ ARE MINE!
..AND MINE!
MINE! I NEED SO I DESERVE HIS $!
HIS $ ARE MINE!
MINE!
ME! I WANT MY SHARE OF OTHER'S $!
NO, ME! I HAVE A RIGHT TO THE UNEARNED $!
MINE!
I WANT $ SO HIS $ ARE MINE!
WHAT ABOUT MY RIGHT TO MY EARNED $!
KEEP OUT OF THIS! YOU HAVE NO SAY BECAUSE IT IS YOUR $ YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO KEEP OR USE IT!
YOUR SELFISHLY EARNED $ RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO THE UNSELFISH, WE WHO HAVE NOT EARNED IT! HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO US?!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TAR-ING A VICTIM FROM HIS ATTACKERS!
PROTECT THE GUILTY FROM JUSTICE
HEY! YOU HAVE BETTER WEAPONS THAN WE DO!
THAT MEANS HE EXPLOITED THEM FROM US!
YOUR SUIT IS BETTER THAN OURS!
HE STOLE IT FROM US!
YOU EXPLOITED YOUR GOOD LOOKS FROM ME!
YOU STOLE YOUR BETTER HEALTH FROM ME!
WE HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE BACK WHAT WE NEVER HAD BUT STILL BELONG TO US!
YOUR ADVANTAGES BELONG TO ME!
YOU DEPRIVED ME OF MY TALENTS, ABILITY, SKILLS, IT'S NOT FAIR!
HA! HA! THIS TIME NO ONE TAKES KILLER DED ALIVE!
2

S.S. SNAKE IN GRASS'S JEWELRY!? I'M PREJUDICE, I DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH CROOKS!
IT'S S.S. SNAKE! YOU BIGOT, IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO DISCRIMINATE! ME, I'LL ROB ANYONE! I'LL MAKE IT LEGAL, I'LL GIVE YOU MY PERSONAL I.O.U.!
OH, HAPPY DAY! HA! HA! KILLJOY FAILED! HA! HA! HA! SNAKE ESCAPED!
NOW I'LL HAVE MY WAY! TAKE KILLER DEAD OR NOT AT ALL!
...WHA.. OH, NO! KILL*
JOY! WAH! I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN ALIVE!
3

S S SNAKE, YOU THIEVING RAT!
IT'S S.S.S. SNAKE, STUPID! I'LL TAKE THAT JEWEL CASE AND THE JEWELS INSIDE!
HA! HA! AGAIN KILLJOY FAILED WITH S.S.S. SNAKE! HA! HA! CRIME TRIUMPHS AT LAST!
HART FOUNDATION TO PROTECT THE GUILTY FROM JUSTICE
THE HERO FAILED, THE GUILTY GOT AWAY, THE INNOCENT LOST HIS $. BUT IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT INJUSTICE TRIUMPHS. THE GUILTY HAVE A RIGHT TO SUCCEED AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE! WHY MUST THE TRUE ALWAYS BE RIGHT!
THIS TIME, I SWEAR, KILLER DED WON'T BE TAKEN ALIVE!
4

IT'S A "CRIME" ARRESTING AN HONEST MAN FOR BEING CAUGHT EXERCISING HIS FREEDOM TO TAKE ANOTHER'S PROPERTY! NO ONE HAS A RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY — ANYTHING! EVERYTHING BELONGS TO EVERYBODY!
FREE THE GUILTY
EVERY DECENT MAN CAN SEE HE IS BEING FRAMED, FORCED TO ACT THAT WAY BECAUSE OF HIS ENVIRONMENT! HE IS NOT TO BLAME, BUT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE ELSE IS!
IT IS NOT WHAT A MAN DOES THAT COUNTS! HE HAS TO BE JUDGED BY THE FACT NO ONE CAN BE PERFECTLY GOOD! EVEN THE INNOCENT ARE NOT ALL INNOCENT! HOW CAN THE GUILTY BE ALL GUILTY?
I WAS FORCED TO BE BAD! SOB!
IT IS DISHONEST TO EXPECT A MAN TO BE HONEST, UNJUST TO DEMAND JUSTICE, EVIL TO WANT THE GOOD! BUT THE TRULY HONEST, JUST, GOOD, HUMAN MAN BLAMES NONE, FORGIVES ALL AND ONLY EXPECTS MORE OR LESS OF OTHERS!
MY FEELING, EXACTLY! MY WHIM TELLS ME THE REAL TRUTH! NO ONE CAN HELP WHAT HE DOES OR IS!
THE RATIONAL IS IMMORAL
WHAT DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING! YOU, HONORABLE SIR, ARE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT ALL MEN MUST STRIVE TO BECOME!
THE GUILTY ARE INNOCENT
MERCY IS HIGHER JUSTICE
THE UNEARNED IS THE DESERVING!
THE INNOCENT ARE SELFISH
THE HONEST ARE TROUBLE MAKERS!
REASON IS ILLOGICAL!
JUSTICE IS UNFAIR!
TRUTH IS OPPRESSIVE!
YOU ARE PURE NOBLE UPLIFTING SPIRIT! I'M MR. HART!
YOU ARE INSPIRATIONAL WISDOM! I'M MR. SOLE!
HART AND SOLE! OH, WE GO TOGETHER BEAUTIFULLY!
LIKE FAITH AND FORCE, MIGHT IS RIGHT, A FORCED GOOD!
WITHOUT HEART AND SOUL A MAN IS A MIND GUIDING A BODY, REASON CONTROLLING ACTION! HOW INHUMAN!
THIS TIME, KILLER DED WON'T BE TAKEN ALIVE!
THIS TIME IT'S MY WAY! WHA-
NOT AGAIN!
WAH! KILLJOY IS TO BLAME! HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE WHAT HE IS, DO WHAT HE DOES! HE COULD HELP IT! WE'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM! BUT KILLER DED CAN'T HELP BEING WHAT HE IS! SOB! WAH!
5

NOBODY IS PERFECT, EVEN KILLJOY FAILED, SO IF WE CAN'T BE PERFECT IT IS OKAY TO BE IMPERFECT! BUT WE CAN NEVER BE PERFECTLY BAD, RIGHT! THERE'S ALWAYS SOME GOOD IN US! ONLY EXTREMIST WHO TRY TO BE CONSISTENT, TO BE PERFECT, ARE BAD!
WAH! IT'S NOT FAIR! HE IS PICKING ON US BECAUSE WE'RE IMPERFECTLY GOOD BECAUSE WE'RE NOT EXTREMIST! IT'S ALRIGHT TO BE IMPERFECTLY BAD! WAH!
THIS TIME, KILLER DED GETS TAKEN DEAD!
GARBAGE SHUTE
YES MR. HART. JUSTICE IS SO UNJUST! WHY MUST 2+2 ALWAYS = 4 ?!
TRUE, MR. SOLE, WITH MERCY, 2+2 COULD = ANYTHING ANY-ONE WANTS IT TO BE! THAT'S FAIR!
TO BE ON EXHIBIT
THE JEWEL OF JEWELS
THIS WAY WITH THE JEWEL OF JEWELS!
THE JEWEL OF JEWELS IS SAFE IN THIS SAFE! ONLY SIR CEDRIC KNOWS THE COMBINATION!
I DO?!
THIS TIME... MY WAY.. DEAD!
THIS TIME... ..NOOOoo
WAH! WHY CAN'T I HAVE MY WAY.. BE TAKEN DEAD!
WAH! WHY DOES KILLJOY INTER-FERE WITH AN INNOCENT MAN'S PURSUITS, DENY HIS WISHES AND SPOIL HIS HAPPINESS! POOR INNOCENT KILLER! MY SOUL IS CRUSHED, MR. HART!
MY HEART IS BREAKING, MR. SOLE!
6

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

SIR CEDRIC, YOU'RE SAFE IF YOU OPEN THE SAFE!
S.S. SNAKE, YOU RAT!
IT'S S.S.S.
I'M DIAMOND HEAD! I NEED THE JEWEL!
I'M KING OF DIAMONDS! I WANT IT!
I'M DIAMOND LADY! I INSIST I OWN IT!
WHAT ABOUT US?!
DIAMOND EYES! BLUE DIAMOND! DR. DIAMOND! DIAMOND MASTER!
CAPTAIN DIAMOND! RED DIAMOND! DIAMOND BRAIN! DIAMOND X!
BUT THE JEWEL RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO..
TO THOSE THAT DO NOT OWN IT, TO US THE JEWEL DEPRIVED, THE JEWEL EXPLOITED, THE JEWEL NEEDY!
IF OUR SOUND MORAL ARGUMENT CONVINCES YOU..OPEN THE SAFE SO WE CAN CLAIM OUR RIGHT! WE DON'T WANT YOU TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST YOUR WILL! YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE TO OPEN IT OR NOT TO OPEN IT.
POP!
POOF!
KOFF!
POW! BOP! BIFF! OWW! SMAK! OOF! KRAK! AGH!
KRAK! POW! SOK! BOP! BAF!
POP!
7

WAH! IT'S NOT FAIR! I HAVE A RIGHT TO ALWAYS GET AWAY WITH CRIME!..
..TO ALWAYS GET AWAY FROM KILLJOY...
WHY CAN'T I HAVE MY WAY?
POOP
SNAP!
OWW.. .. BUT I'M FREE.. I'M SAFE I'LL ESCAPE AGAIN!
BIFF! BAM! BOFF! SMAK! KRAK POF! POW!
BAFF! BIFF! BAM! BOFF! KRAK! POW! POFF! PIFF! POO! SMK!
PUFF PANT SWEAT WHEEZE
THIS TIME WON'T BE LIKE LAST TIME!
PUFF PANT WHEEZE
THIS TIME
PANT PUFF
THIS TIME THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A THIS TIME!
PUFF PANT
8 END

E-Man!

"...THE SF COMIC BOOK OF THE FUTURE."

The following letter was first printed in "Fantastic Science Fiction & Fantasy Stories" (March 1974) and excerpts are reprinted here with the permission of Ted White, Editor of "Fantastic", and Frank J. Hayes, III. "Fantastic" is an adult science fiction magazine NOT a comic book which may help to explain some of the comments in the letter.

Ted —

Would anyone feel a compulsion to tear me into little bits if I admitted to liking a small piece of indescribably funny comic-book "sf" called E-Man?

At first glance, E-Man appears to be one of the nameless hordes. The plot is clinched and comic-booky. After a nova, a part of the exploded star is endowed with intelligence. It drifts, searching for some other form of intelligent life, until it comes across a typical alien menace from Alpha Centauri, which wants to test a powerful new weapon on Pluto. (Why the alien shies away from Earth, where all the other comic-book menaces seem to be attracted, is a bit unclear.)

The "intelligent energy" is confused by the alien's robot crew), so he/it transforms him/itself into matter, duplicating one of the robots. (Fortunately, he is not yet aware that $E=mc^2$ would limit his mass to a very low amount.) The extra weight on board confuses the alien (apparently a giant brain under glass), who helplessly crashes on Earth ...

By this time, any reader of the story who has any respect for decent science fiction has gone for a Bromo. That's if he hasn't caught something else in reading between panels: an almost-satirical inanity. The intelligent energy, after all, lacks the standard, ready-made heroism; in fact, it's almost childlike. "The Brain!" it exclaims when it first sees the alien. "WOW!" The juvenility of the hero, the helplessness of the alien menace as his starship goes off course, the generally ridiculous design of the story ... all these things come together in the reader's mind, if it is receptive, to form something that is so highly "camp" that it's BEYOND camp: this is satire of a fine sort, a satirical view of mass-medium science fiction.

There's no doubt in my mind that kids will love this comic book. It's designed for a very young audience, an audience that won't know any better than to like it. But a few, more sophisticated and mature, readers will also read it — and see that it is both more and less than it claims to be — and enjoy it, not in spite of its "badness", but because of it.

After reading Michael Girsdansky's fulminations upon watching GENESIS II, I'm beginning to wonder if writer Nicola Cuti and artist Joe Staton haven't sniffed out the route of mass-medium sf for the future in E-Man. It's aimed low, after all, and it'll undoubtedly make it with the audience for which it's intended. Little kids, paging through each issue, might even be thinking, WOW! I watch Star Trek cartoons and read E-Man comics — I'm really serious about science fiction! Gosh-wowie!, echoing the acclaim — and awe, maybe — that always seems to issue from any audience when Star Trek or Genesis II or (fill in blank): Of the Planet Of The Apes flashes on a screen.

E-Man has an advantage over, say, Genesis II, though; it's non-toxic. It can't cause sf fans to scream, rant, rave or convulse. It's a supercampy kind of nonsense, and it probably wouldn't do the sf world any good, but at least it wouldn't vex and tax the rationality of people who care about good sf as it entertained the multitudes of the general public.

After all, science fiction will no longer be chic in a few years; when people once again forget about it, they'll turn to something else, and that's what you'll see on your tv screen. Right now, the rage seems to be 60-and 90-minute detectives, and a good many mystery fans are unhappy with the situation as Mr. Girsdansky was over G-II. While science fiction is popular with the mass media, though, I (for one) would rather see something I could laugh about (rather than ulcerate over) while my friends and family are oohing and ahhing.

E-Man may well be the sf comic book of the future. I hope so; at least it'd be better than the quasi-sf television shows, comic books, movies, etc. which insist on appearing from time to time.

Frank J. Hayes, III
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Moline, Ill.

E-Man's artist is the same Joe Staton whose work appears regularly in these pages (Fantastic Stories) and on the cover of our September, 1973, issue ...

-TW